GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2064
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Educational Qualifications for Pesticides Retailers
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has put new entrant dealers/retailers under strict regulations that specify educational qualifications to get a licence to sell, stock or distribute chemicals used as vital inputs by farmers;

(b) if so, the number of retailers/dealers likely to be effected by such moves;

(c) whether the Government has exempted existing retailers and dealers of pesticides/insecticides from the said mandatory qualifications norms and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to provide right inputs/advise to the farmers regarding use of chemicals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): The Central Government vide notification, GSR 106(E), dated 01.02.2017 has amended sub rule (1A) of Rule 10 of The Insecticides Rule 1971 as under:-

Person who applies for the grant of license to sell, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute insecticides shall possess or employ a person possessing a graduate degree in Agricultural Sciences or Biochemistry or Biotechnology or Life Sciences or in Science with Chemistry or Botany or Zoology from a recognized university or Institute or one year diploma course in Agriculture or Horticulture or related subjects from any government recognized university or institute with course content on plant protection and pesticides management.

Contdâ€¦2/-

All the new entrant dealers/retailers need to have above mentioned qualifications. However, for the existing dealers/retailers a period of two years have been given to comply with the said qualifications.

(c): Yes, the Notification, GSR 106(E), dated 01.02.2017 provides that the existing licensee of pesticides, who are more than forty-five years of age and who have been running their trade either themselves or have inherited with cumulative period of experience of more than ten years as on the date of publication of these rules as amended by The Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017 and the annual turnover is less than Rs. five lakh are exempted from the aforesaid rule for a period of licenceship continuing in their name.

(d): Under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central and State Government have notified 182 and 13403 number of Insecticides Inspectors respectively, to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and analyzed them with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent courts of law in cases of violation of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. In addition, the Government is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.

CIPMCs inter alia, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), 2 days and 5 days training programmes and season long training program for State Agriculture Extension officers and NGOs / Private Bodies. A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated disseminating message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

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